

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03774 121745Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /147 W

----- 088961

R 121550Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8610

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3774

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO PINS

SUBJ: SECOND OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN RALLY IN LISBON

REF: LISBON 3726

SUMMARY: IN MEETING OCTOBER 10 CDE LISBON CANDIDATES
DISCUSSED WIDE RANGE NATIONAL ISSUES. WHILE OVERSEAS WAS
NOT PRINCIPAL TOPIC, MEETING PREMATURELY CLOSED BY POLICE
AFTER MILD REFERENCE TO PORTUGUESE AFRICA. END SUMMARY

1. OPPOSITION HELD SECOND LISBON CAMPAIGN RALLY NIGHT
OCTOBER 10 IN CINE VOX. SOME 1500 PERSONS SOUGHT ENTER
MEETING BUT POLICE ONLY ALLOWED THEATER TO BE FILLED
TO SEATING CAPACITY OF 537, AND THE REST WERE PEACEFULLY
BUT FIRMLY DISPERSED. (SOME OF THESE, ACCORDING PRESS
REPORTS, WENT OFF TO STONE NEARBY BANK.) UNLIKE FIRST
MEETING OCTOBER 4, POLICE OFFICER WAS SEATED ON STAGE
ALONGSIDE CANDIDATES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE CIVIL
GOVERNOR DEICTS CITED REFTEL.

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2. LABOR MATTERS AND ECONOMIC SITUATION PRINCIPAL TOPICS

THIS MEETING. SPEAKERS, AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, CATALOGUED GOVERNMENT DEEDS AND MISDEEDS IN THESE TWO FIELDS. RELATIVELY LITTLE WAS SAID REGARDING OVERSEAS. HOWEVER, TWO HOURS INTO MEETING ONE CANDIDATE, AFTER EXHORTING THE GOVERNMENT TO "BRING THE SOLDIERS HOME NOW FROM OVERSEAS," DECLARED "PORTUGAL CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE WITH THIS USELESS AND UNJUST WAR," WHEREUPON THE POLICE OFFICER IN ATTENDANCE UNPLUGGED THE SPEAKER'S MICROPHONE AND DECLARED THE RALLY OVER. AFTER FURTHER HOUR OF SONGS AND EXTEMPORANEOUS PROTESTS FROM AUDIENCE, MEETING BROKE UP AND CROWD DISPERSED.

3. COMMENT: OPPOSITION APPARENTLY DECIDED OBEY CIVIL GOVERNOR'S ADMONITION TO REFRAIN FROM ILLEGAL STATEMENTS REGARDING PORTUGUESE AFRICA. WHILE SUBJECT BROACHED, TONE STATEMENTS AND METHOD PRESENTATION MUCH LESS PROVOCATIVE THAN AT FIRST MEETING (REFTEL). CDE PROBABLY DECIDED IT NOT IN ITS INTERESTS AT THIS STAGE TO HAVE ITS SLATE ABOLISHED IN LISBON--HENCE ITS MILD APPROACH ON AFRICA. IT IS LESS CLEAR WHY POLICE CLOSED MEETING AFTER RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS STATEMENT CITED ABOVE.

POST

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